

Message Text

SECRET

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 AID-20 SCA-01 VO-03 FDRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /105 W

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O 180944Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5542

INFO SEC DEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANKKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

USSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAN THO

S E C R E T SAIGON 5255

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF NVA OFFENSIVE-- SUMMARY FOR PERIOD

ENDING NOON APRIL 18

1. GENERAL

ACTIVITY IN MOST OF MR3 FELL OFF DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOME SPORADIC SHARP CLASHES IN LONG KHANH AND LON AN PROVINCES, AND RAPID MOVEMENT BY NVA FORCES TO COMPLETE THEIR CAPTURE OF NINH THUAN AND BINH THUAN PROVINCES. MR3 HQ IS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH MAJOR NVA BUILDUPS BOTH EAST OF BIEN HOA IN LONG KHANH AND SOUTHWEST OF SAIGON IN LONG AN. ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT A MODERATE LEVEL

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IN THE DELTA, WITH THE ONLY MAJOR FIGHTING CONFINED TO NORTH-

EASTERN DINH TUONG PROVINCE.

2. MR3

AFTER OVERRUNNING PHAN RANG ON APRIL 16, THE NVA, REPORTEDLY THE 3RD DIV AND PERHAPS ELEMENTS OF THE 320TH DIV., HAS MOVED RAPIDLY TO CAPTURE FOUR DISTRICTS IN BINH THUAN PROVINCE, AND NOW POSES A SERIOUS IMMEDIATE THREAT TO PHAN THIET. PHAN THIET IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO HOLD MORE THAN A FEW DAYS.

MR3 HQ IS CONCERNED PRIMURILY WITH MAJOR NVA BUILDUPS IN THE AREAS EAST OF BIEN HOA AND SOUTHWEST OF LONG KHANH FOR WHAT APPEAR TO BE IMMINENT OFFENSIVES DIRECTED AT SAIGON AND BIEN HOA. NVA UNITS WHICH APPEAR TO BE IN ORMOVING TOWARD LONG KHANH NOW INCLUDE THE 325TH, 320B, AND 312TH NVA DIVISIONS, AND ELEMENTS OF THE 341ST AND 7TH NVA DIVISIONS. THE 10TH HAS BEEN FIXED ON HWY 20 IN LAM DONG HEADED FOR LONG KHANH. IN LONG AN, A BUILDUP OF THE 5TH, 3RD, AND POSSIBLE THE 8TH NVA DIVISIONS IS NOW GOING ON. IN TOTO, THERE ARE AT LEAST 6 NVA DIVISIONS IN MR3 AND THIS NUMBER COULD GO TO TWELVE AS ADDITIONAL UNITS ARRIVE AND ARE IDENTIFIED.

TWO BATALIONS OF THE 8TH REGT. OF THE 5TH ARVN DIVISION WORKING WITH THE 3RD ARMORED BRIGADE TRYING TO CLEAR ROUTE 1 NEAR BIEN HOA-LONG KHANH BORDER WERE AMBUSHED THE MORNING OF APRIL 17. THE ATTACK CONSISTED OF 200 ROUNDS OF MIXED ARTILLERY AND MORTAR AND GROUND ASSAULTS. THE TWO BATTALIONS SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES AND WERE FORCED TO FALL BACK. THIS MARKES THE FIRST MAJOR CONTACT INVOLVING THE 5TH ARVN DIVISION IN THE CURRENT OFFENSIV E.

BIEN HOA AIRBASE TOOK SEVENTEEN ROUNDS IN FOUR ABF'S IN THE PAST 24 HOURS. SEVEN OF THE ROUNDS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS 130MM, AND REMAINING 10 ROUNDS HAVE NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED. THERE WAS NO DAMAGE REPORTED.

3. MR4

ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA CONTINUED AT A MODERATE LEVEL.
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THE MAJOR FOCUS OF ACTIVITY REMAINED NORTHEASTERN DINH TUONG PROVINCE WHERE THREE LARGE CONTACTS NORTH AND NORTHWEST OF BEN TRANH DISTRICT TOWN LEFT 49 NVA DEAD. GVN CASUALTIES WERE ONE KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED.

NVA GUNNERS FIRED TWO 107MM ROCKETS AT BINH THUY AIR BASE. NO DAMAGE WAS REPORTED.
MARTIN

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NNN

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